

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Florida**

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Policies and Procedures on Telephonic Appearances

Telephonic hearings are considered a privilege, not a right, and are subject to the discretion of the assigned Judge.

Counsel assumes the risk of the prejudice that may result from not being present in person.

1. General Conditions and Limitations on Telephonic Appearances:

- a. Counsel resident in a Division of the Middle District generally must appear in person at all hearings and trials in that Division.
- b. Participation of counsel appearing by telephone is limited to a short statement in support of or in opposition to the relief requested unless permitted otherwise by the Judge.
- c. With permission from Chamber's Staff ([Chambers Contact Information](#)): (1) individual parties with no lawyer may attend hearings by telephone, and (2) parties represented by counsel may attend hearings by telephone on a "listen only" basis.
- d. Telephonic appearances are not allowed in evidentiary hearings or trials. Only limited telephonic appearances are permitted in Chapter 13 hearings in the Orlando and Jacksonville Divisions.
- e. The Court may mute or disconnect the call and conduct the hearing without participation of counsel appearing telephonically in the event of equipment failure or audible background noise.

2. General Procedures:

- a. Telephonic appearances must be arranged by contacting CourtCall at 866-582-6878 not later than 5 p.m., EST, on the business day prior to the hearing date.
- b. CourtCall will provide counsel with written confirmation of a telephonic appearance and give counsel a number to call to make that appearance.
- c. Counsel is responsible for dialing into the call by the time of the scheduled hearing. CourtCall does not place calls to counsel.
- d. To ensure the quality of the record, the use of speakerphones is prohibited and the use of cell phones is discouraged. Counsel should cover the telephone handset or use the mute option to minimize background noise.
- e. Those appearing telephonically shall pause from time to time while speaking to facilitate future transcription of the hearing and to allow for inquiry or comments by the Judge.
- f. Counsel shall identify themselves for the record each time they speak.
- g. Please direct questions regarding charges and payment arrangements directly to CourtCall.
- h. Click [HERE](#) to leave feedback regarding your experience with CourtCall.